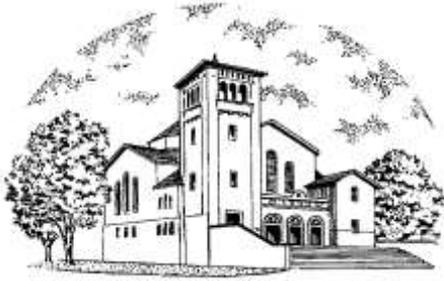


Cochrane Street United Church

(in Partnership with St. James United Church)

81 Cochrane Street ♦ St. John's, NL ♦ A1C 3L7



February 18th, 2024

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

Presider: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Eric Hillier
Minister of Music: Patricia Young
Director of Music: Tristan Cleveland-Thompson
Technical Operations: John Williams, Jackabon Media

(t) 709-722-3023 (f) 709-722-3260
info@cochranestreetuc.com
www.cochranestreetuc.com

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*please stand as you are able

****bold** indicates in unison

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We respectfully acknowledge the territory in which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, and the island of Newfoundland as the ancestral homelands of the Mi'kmaq and Beothuk. We would also like to recognize the Inuit of Nunatsiavut and NunatuKavut and the Innu of Nitassinan, and their ancestors, as the original people of Labrador. We strive for respectful relationships with all the peoples of this province as we search for collective healing and true reconciliation, and honour this beautiful land together.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see the email of each congregation for detailed announcements.

INTROIT "Lord Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary" (**More Voices #18**)

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy tried and true; with thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

***LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE & PASSING OF THE PEACE:**

The light of Christ is with us. **Here. Now. In this place.**

In Christ, although we are many, we are one.

Let our hospitality towards each other reflect God's love.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

MEDITATIVE CALL TO WORSHIP: *Each Sunday of Lent, we begin with a time of centering, reflectively listening to a sound from nature.*

CENTERING REFRAIN: "Be Still and Know" (More Voices #77)

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still, be still and know that I am God.

OPENING PRAYER (*remain seated*)

Creative and Creating God,

we come together in stillness,

**opening our hearts to your presence within us, between us,
within and beyond all of your creation as well.**

**Be with us in these Lenten days as we journey together
in the companionship of Jesus your Beloved Son,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

***HYMN:** “Forty Days and Forty Nights” (*Voices United #114*)

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY HYMN: “For the Gift of Creation” (*VU #538*)

For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

We give thanks O God for your many gifts, the gift of our world,
of each other, of community, and of this season of reflection
that is before us. Guide us through these days, that as we
reflect on your word, our hearts may turn more fully toward you,
and to Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.

GOD’S WORD FOR US TODAY

LEARNING TOGETHER

***HYMN:** “Fairest Lord Jesus” (*Voices United #341*)

READING: Genesis 9:8 – 17

Reader: Tim Reynolds

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***RESPONSIVE PSALM:** Psalm 25 (*Voices United p. 753*)

READING: Mark 1:9 – 15

Reader: Tim Reynolds

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

READING: “The Water We Seek” (Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi)

This is a word of wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM: “I give you a new commandment”, by Peter Aston

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *In response to the words, “Healing God” in each section of the prayer, please say “Bring us to wholeness.”*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*HYMN: "Jesus Tempted in the Desert" (*Voices United #115*)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (p.921 VU)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

*HYMN: "Bless Now O God the Journey" (*Voices United #633*)

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE

Holy God, dreamer of dreams, we offer the partnership of
Cochrane Street United Church and St. James United Church to
you. We are your people, this is your church. We come to you
seeking your guidance, your purpose, your vision. Align our will
with yours, so that we will be willing to do whatever it takes to
carry out your plan. We ask you to break through in new ways in
our church. Show us the great ministry you have in store for us.
Help us dream your dreams. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us,
giving us the vision, boldness, and confidence to do all that you
call us to do. Amen.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

One: As we go from here in this time of self reflection,

All: may we be blessed in also knowing Jesus more deeply.

One: May we follow along the path he has walked before us,

All: arriving at Easter in a spirit of renewed hope and joy.

*SUNG BENEDICTION: "May God's Sheltering Wings" (MV # 214)

May God's sheltering wings, her gathering wings protect you.

May God's nurturing arms, her cradling arms sustain you,

And hold you in her love, and hold you in her love.

POSTLUDE AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

*During the postlude, those who wish may come forward to have a small
cross in ash traced on their forehead or hand as a way to begin Lent.*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday,	FEBRUARY 18	CSUC Service @ St. James UC
Sunday,	FEBRUARY 25	CSUC – Rev. Karen Bursej
Sunday,	MARCH 03	CSUC – Rev. James Ravenscroft (COMMUNION)
Sunday,	MARCH 10	CSUC – Bert Riggs
Sunday,	MARCH 17	CSUC – Rev. Miriam Bowlby
Sunday,	MARCH 24	CSUC Service @ St. James UC (PALM SUNDAY)
Sunday,	MARCH 31	CSUC – Rev. Peggy Johnson EASTER SUNDAY / COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS: If you wish to have an announcement included in the bulletin, please have it into the office by Thursday at noon.

NO SCENTS MAKES GOOD SENSE! A friendly reminder that members of our congregations can be sensitive to scented products. Thank you for helping create a safe environment in which we can all fully participate.

PASTORAL COVERAGE FOR CSUC: Rev. Peggy Johson is covering all pastoral emergencies and funerals. She can be reached at (709) 685-9223 or by email at peggyjoanjohson@hotmail.com. If Rev. Peggy is not available, please contact Paula Reynolds at pt2reynolds@gmail.com.

PILOT PROJECT WITH ST. JAMES: Our pilot project with St. James will formally commence on Sunday, March 3rd, 2024. *Tim Reynolds*
Chair, Church Council

NEXT MEETING OF CSUC CHURCH COUNCIL is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2024, via ZOOM. If anyone has a matter they wish to bring to the attention of Council, please contact Tim Reynolds at pt2reynolds@gmail.com.

BRIDGES TO HOPE ITEM OF THE MONTH: For each month of 2024, Bridges To Hope will be suggesting a much needed food item for members of our partner congregations to consider for donation. For **FEBRUARY**, we are suggesting 1L OF JUICE. Of course other non-perishable items are always welcome.

ST. JAMES – MAKE YOUR LENT GREEN: This year we are using a green lens as we explore the readings for each Sunday in Lent. Why not make your whole Lent green? One way to do this is to follow the suggestions by A Rocha, a Christian environmental organisation started in the UK. Here is a link to their UK website: <https://arocha.org.uk/go-green-for-lent/>

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH EVENTS:

FEB 25 3pm Wild Light Spiritual Oasis Eco-Spirituality Group

MAR 3 7pm Taize prayer

For details contact james@stjamesuc.org.

St. James – Annual Spring UCW Coffee & Bake Sale: Please join us for our Annual Spring United Church Women Coffee and Bake Sale on Saturday, **April 20, 2024** from **2 – 4 pm**. Cost is \$8.00 at the door. Please contact the church office for more information.

St. James Outreach and Action Committee is discerning a future initiative of offering ESL/EFL classes (English as a second or foreign language conversation classes). This is an awesome opportunity to train for that! Call Tom Dawe for details at 738-397 or check the following website www.teachersonwheels.ca.

THE GOWER SERVICE AND SOCIAL CLUB is holding its February 2024 Dinner Meeting on Tuesday, **February 20**, starting at **6:00 p.m.** in the Gower Lecture Hall. Men and women of Cochrane Street UC and St. James UC are invited! The meal will be Shepherd's Pie (made with ground lamb) and vegetables, a light appetizer and a light dessert. The after dinner speaker is Susan Hounsell, a lawyer who is quite knowledgeable on matters related to seniors and the law. *Please let Bert Riggs know* via briggs@mun.ca if you plan to attend this event by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 18.

6th Annual Meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council: The closing motion of the 5th Annual Meeting of the Region on May 14, 2023, named the **6th Annual Meeting of the Regional Council to be held on June 7-9, 2024.** The location of the Annual Meeting is Memorial University, St. John's Campus. The theme for the meeting will be **When We Say Yes**, based on scripture from John 6:66-69. Please use this link to watch the website for updates and information: <https://ucceast.ca/first-dawn-eastern-edge-regional-council-16/first-dawn-eastern-edge-regional-council-annual-meeting-2024>

BURRY HEIGHTS CAMP: Burry Heights United Church Camp on the east coast, is seeking the services of a treasurer/bookkeeper to keep the books of our camp and to submit the necessary government forms as required beginning Feb 1, 2024. If you have the skills to help us out in this regard, please contact Betty at burryheights@hotmail.com

OCEAN RANGER MEMORIAL PRAYER SERVICE RECHEDULED: Gonzaga High School is still holding its annual Ocean Ranger Memorial Prayer Service to remember those who lost their lives in the tragedy 42 years ago. The service will now be held on Monday, February 19, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at the Basilica of St. John the Baptist.

Galatians 6:2

